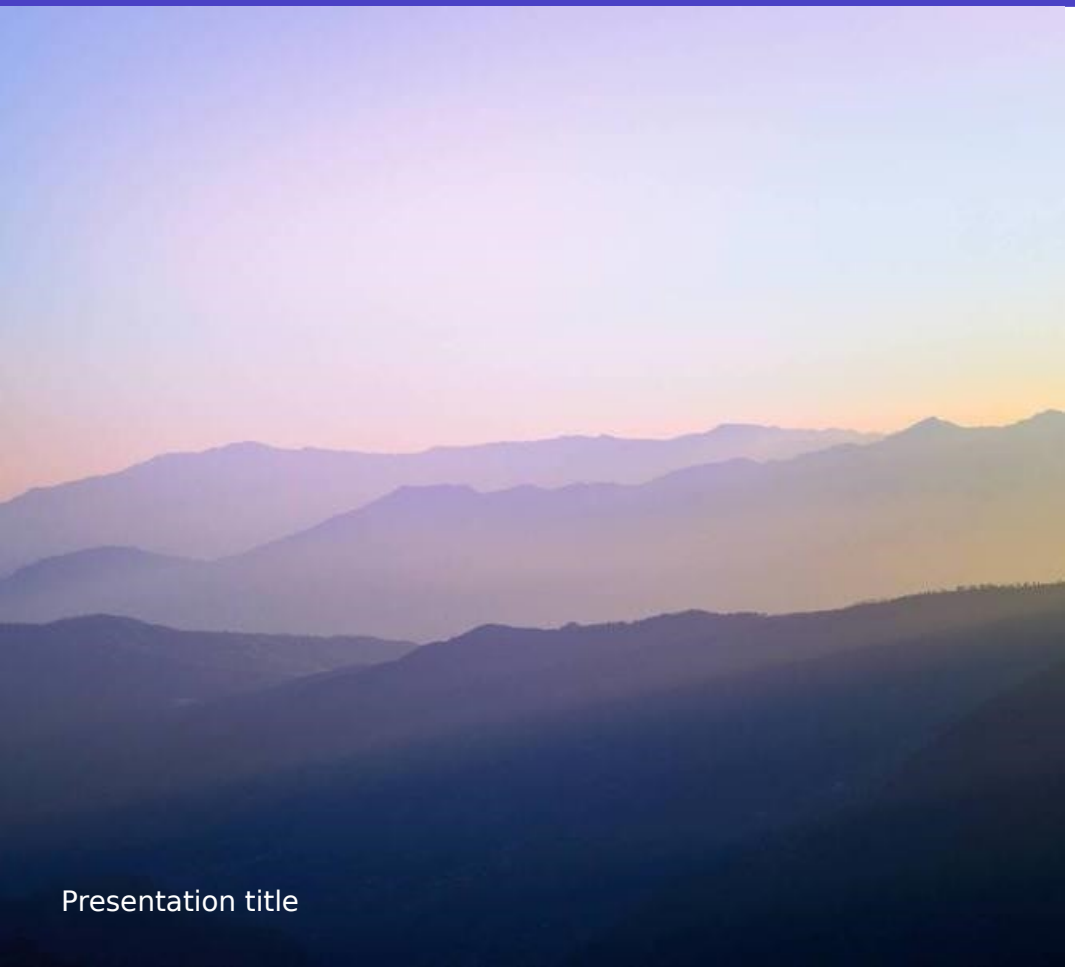
PE 308 Theory and Psychology of Coaching

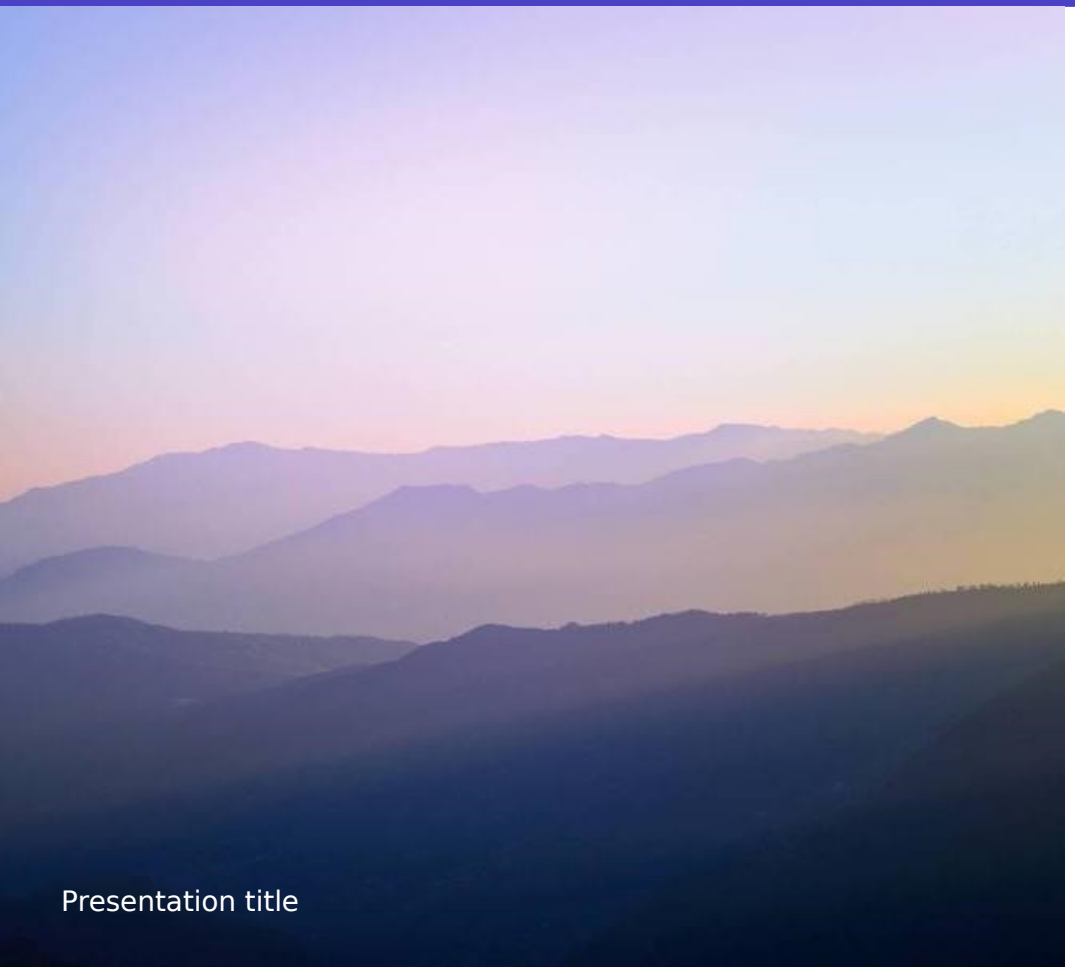
Chapter 20 Managing Risk

Key Concepts



1. Risk management involves ensuring that the athletes and all those involved in sport have a safe environment, and it helps the coach avoid litigation.
2. Coaches are encouraged to be responsible and professional when it comes to risk management.

Key Concepts



3. The most common type of coaching-related litigation involves tort law where a person fails to perform a legal duty (negligence).

4. The four steps of risk management include identifying the risks, evaluating the risks, selecting an approach to manage the risk, and implementing that approach.

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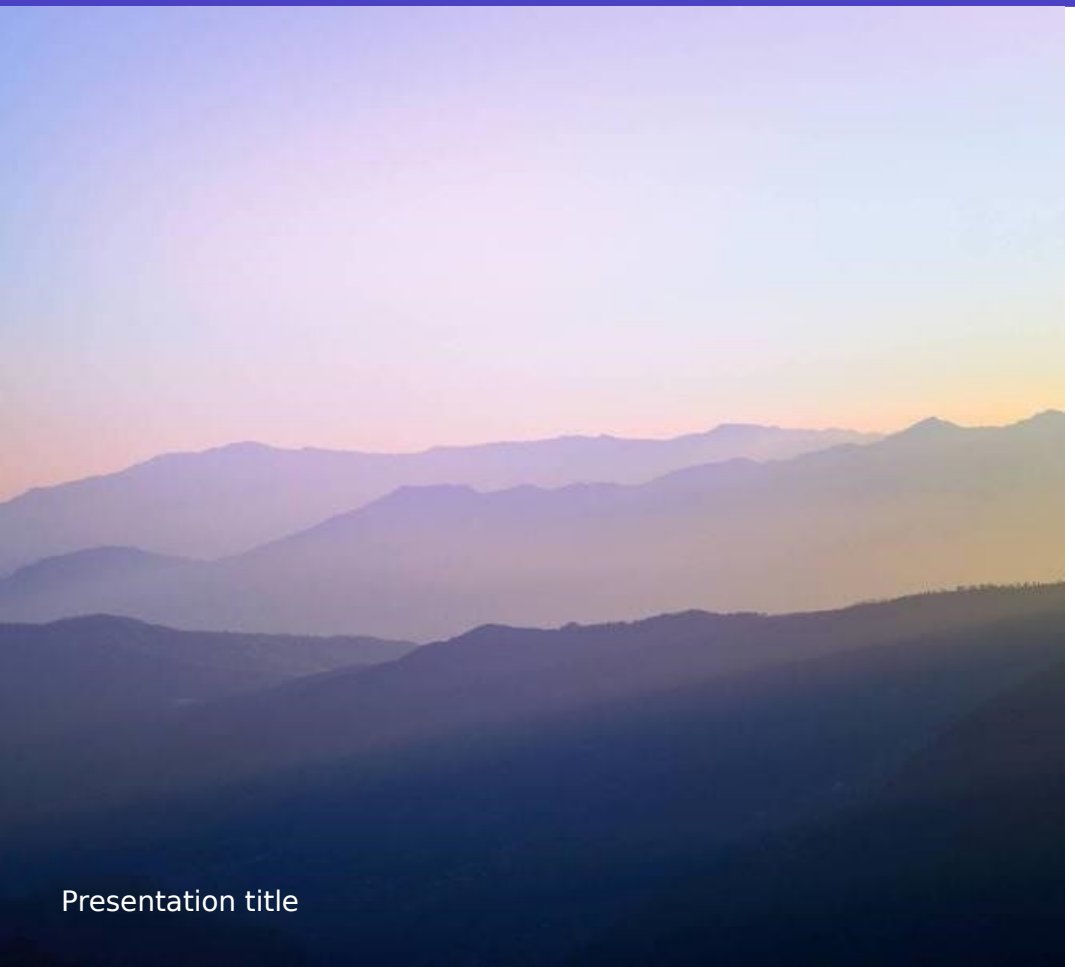

5. Although participation agreements establish that athletes have been warned about the risk of the sport, these agreements cannot prevent lawsuits or absolve the coach from negligence.

6. Coaches should not be coaching without liability insurance, and sponsoring agencies should not permit anyone to coach without it.

A. Legal Liability

- 1. Tort law (negligence)
- 2. Risk management process

B. Immunity

- 1. Frivolous and ordinary negligence (1997 Volunteer Protection Act)
- 2. Gross negligence (no protection)

C. Coaches' Legal Duties

- Duty 1: Properly plan the activity
- Duty 2: Provide proper instructions
- Duty 3: Warn of inherent risks
- Duty 4: Provide a safe physical environment
- Duty 5: Provide adequate and proper equipment

C. Coaches' Legal Duties

- Duty 6: Match athletes appropriately
- Duty 7: Evaluate athletes for injury or incapacity
- Duty 8: Supervise the activity closely
- Duty 9: Provide appropriate emergency assistance
- Duty 10: Protect against physical and psychological harm from others

D. Other Duties

- 1. Keep adequate records
- 2. Provide safe transportation
- 3. Follow due process
- 4. Pursue proper training

E. Waivers and Participation Contracts

- 1. Minors cannot enter into contracts, and parents cannot waive minors’ rights to sue
- 2. Courts typically reject waiver contracts
- 3. It is often considered a violation of public policy to require a preparticipation release

F. Insurance

- 1. Add liability insurance to homeowner’s insurance policy
- 2. Belong to a professional organization
- 3. Purchase separate personal liability insurance